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STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1947

Including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

# STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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*Vice-Chairman:*

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Mr. H. E. Rose.
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**Public Health Officers of the Council.**

**Medical Officer of Health:**

Dr. Margaret C. Fell, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., to the 31st March, 1947.

Dr. R. W. Markham, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., from 1st April, 1947.

**Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:**

Mr. L. H. Poole, M.I.Mun.E., C.R.S.I.

**Public Health Clerk :**

Miss B. Powell.

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## TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the Year 1947.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, the Report is divided into the following sections:—

"A" Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.
"B" General Provision of Health Services for the Area.
"C" Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
"D" Housing.
"E" Inspection and Supervision of Food.
"F" Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

## SECTION "A"

**Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Area (in acres) ... ... ... ... ... | 3,204 |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947) according to Rate Book ... ... ... | 2,347 |
| Rateable Value ... ... ... ... ... | £108,750 |
| Sum represented by one Penny Rate ... ... | £436 |
| Registrar General's estimate of resident population (Mid. 1947) ... ... ... ... ... ... | 9,153 |

Vital Statistics for the Area:—

**Live Births**

| | *Male* | *Female* | **1947** | **1946** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Totals* | |
| Legitimate ... ... | 98 | 85 | 183 | 165 |
| Illegitimate ... ... | 5 | 3 | 8 | 18 |
| | 103 | 88 | 191 | 183 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population of the Urban District was ... | 20.9 | 20.1 |
| The Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period was ... ... ... ... | 20.5 | 19.1 |

**Still Births**

| | *Male* | *Female* | **1947** | **1946** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate ... ... | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| Illegitimate ... ... | – | – | – | – |
| | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 civilian population was ... ... ... ... ... | 0.55 | 0.33 |
| The Still Birth rate for England and Wales for the same period was ... ... ... ... | .50 | .53 |

| **Deaths.** | *Male* | *Female* | **1947** | **1946** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 50 | 43 | 93 | 102 |
| The death rate per 1,000 estimated population was ... ... ... ... ... ... | | | 10.16 | 11.2 |
| The Death Rate for the whole of England and Wales was ... ... ... ... ... ... | | | 12.0 | 11.5 |
| **Maternity Mortality Rate** for the year per 1,000 births (Live and Still) was ... ... | | | Nil | 5.3 |
| Maternity Mortality Rate in England and Wales for the same period was ... ... | | | 1.17 | 1.43 |

**Deaths of Infants under 1 year.**

| | *Male* | *Female* | **1947** | **1946** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate ... ... | 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 |
| Illegitimate ... ... | – | – | – | 2 |
| | 4 | 2 | 6 | 9 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The Infantile Mortality Rate for the year was | 31.4 | 49 |
| The Infantile Mortaility Rate for the same period for England and Wales was ... ... | 41 | 43 |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ... | 15 | 19 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ... | – | – |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)... | – | – |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... | – | – |

**Causes of Death** (including Transferable Deaths).

| *Ref. No.* | *Males* | *Females* |
|---|---|---|
| 6—Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ... | 2 | 4 |
| 7—Other Forms of Tuberculosis ... ... | 1 | – |
| 8—Syphilitic Diseases ... ... ... | – | 1 |
| 9—Influenza ... ... ... ... | – | 1 |
| 11—Ac. Polio-myel. and Polio-Enceph. ... | 1 | – |
| 13—Cancer ... ... ... ... | 1 | 2 |
| 14—Cancer of Stomach ... ... ... | 2 | – |
| 15—Cancer of Breast ... ... ... | – | 1 |
| 16—Cancer of all other sites ... ... | 7 | 2 |
| 18—Cerebral Haemorrhage ... ... | 4 | 6 |
| 19—Heart Disease ... ... ... ... | 3 | 8 |
| 20—Circulatory Diseases ... ... ... | 5 | 5 |
| 21—Bronchitis ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | – |
| 22—Pneumonia... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 1 |
| 23—Other Respiratory Diseases ... ... | 1 | 3 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 27—Digestive Diseases ... ... ... | 2 | 1 |
| 28—Nephritis ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | – |
| 31—Premature Births... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 |
| 32—Congenital Diseases and Malformation | – | 1 |
| 33—Suicide ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 |
| 35—Violence ... ... ... ... ... | 4 | – |
| 36—Other Causes ... ... ... ... | 9 | 5 |
| | 50 | 43 |

## SECTION "B"

**General Provision of Health Services for the Area.**

*Laboratory Services.* Laboratory facilities are provided at the County Laboratory in Worcester.

*Ambulance Services.* Ambulance facilities are provided by the Council's Ambulance, lent by the British Red Cross Society, and a rota of volunteer drivers and attendants.

During the year, 421 calls were dealt with.

*Hospitals.* The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital provides the district and surrounding areas with maternity beds, 12 beds in the general wards and 6 beds are available in private wards.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cases admitted during the year ... ... ... | 401 |
| Women delivered ... ... ... ... ... | 351 |
| Infants born alive ... ... ... ... ... | 338 |
| Infants stillborn ... ... ... ... ... | 13 |
| Infant deaths ... ... ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Maternal deaths ... ... ... ... ... | Nil |
| Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ... | 1 |

Beds for Infectious Diseases are provided at the Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen. 8 cases of Infectious Disease from Stourport Urban District were admitted during the year.

Arrangements for the treatment of cases of Tuberculosis are made by the County Council, outpatient treatment being undertaken at the Kidderminster Dispensary and in-patient at Knightwick Sanatorium.

Arrangements for the treatment of cases of Venereal Disease are made by the County Council and they can be treated at:

Kidderminster and District General Hospital.
Worcester Royal Infirmary; and
other neighbouring Hospitals as required.

*Nursing in the Home.* This service is provided by the Stourport and Wilden District Nursing Association, which employs

three Nurses, and the Astley and Areley Kings District Nursing Association, which employs one Nurse, all of whom are midwives. In addition to their duties as district nurse midwives, their duties as Health Visitors under the County Council include attendance at School Medical inspections and the treatment of minor ailments in the schools, visits to cases of tuberculosis and mental defectives, regular visits to infants and children under five in their homes, and attendance at ante-natal clinics and Infant Welfare Centres.

*Clinics. Stourport*—The County Council's Ante-Natal Clinics are held every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Home, in charge of Dr. MacArthur, Dr. Mackie and Matron respectively.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held on the first and third Friday in each month at the Lucy Baldwin Home. Children under five are immunised against diphtheria at this Clinic. *Areley Kings*—The County Council's Infant Welfare Centre, in charge of Dr. E. M. Winter, is held in the Parish Hall, Areley Kings, on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons.

## SECTION "C"

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supply.

The majority of dwelling houses in the area are supplied with water from the Council's mains. The source of this supply is situated at Mount Pleasant, Bewdley. The water supply was found to be satisfactory both in quality and quantity. Samples were taken frequently during the year and the chemical and bacteriological analyses proved satisfactory. The water has no plumbo-solvent action. There are 2,307 dwelling houses connected to the town water mains affording a supply for some 8,348 persons. In addition approximately 230 dwelling houses obtain their supply from wells catering for about 805 persons.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

With the exception of a portion of Wilden and Titton, the whole of the Urban Area is provided with main drainage, the Sewage being pumped and treated at the Disposal Works situated in the Borough of Kidderminster and used jointly with the Boroughs of Kidderminster and Bewdley. This system continues to operate satisfactorily although severe flooding in March caused a temporary stoppage at the main pumping station, due to the failure of electric current. This matter was speedily rectified and steps taken to avoid a recurrence of such trouble in the future.

Towards the latter end of the year a contract was entered into for the conversion of some 100 properties to the water carriage system, and 4 such conversions have been completed. The remaining pail closets, cesspools and middens continue to be emptied as, and when required.

**Smoke Abatement.**

A considerable improvement has been effected in the amount of grit emitted from the Power Station due to repairs and improvements to the grit extractors. There has been little further evidence of damage by sulphur fumes. However, arrangements are in hand for suitable tests to be carried out in order to ascertain the volume of sulphur permeating the atmosphere.

## SECTION "D"

**Housing.**

Improved progress has been made on Walshes Farm, No. 1 Site, and 40 permanent houses were completed by the end of the year.

It is pleasing to report that rapid progress was made with the erection of Orlit type houses on the site at Wilden Top. 30 houses of this type were completed during the year.

The Housing Manager gives the following figures for the end of the year 1947.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Council Houses in the District... ... | 455 |
| Number of Council Houses requisitioned by the Council ... | 9 |
| Number of Applicants for Council Houses ... ... | 535 |
| Number of above applicants who are living in lodgings ... ... ... ... ... ... | 267 |
| Approximate total Number of persons represented by application list ... ... ... ... ... | 1836 |

There are in the district, a considerable number of houses either totally unfit for human habitation or of such a low standard as to render them unsuitable for retention for housing purposes. The present desperate situation with regard to living accommodation makes it impossible to carry out demolitions in the near future. However, a start has been made in dealing with some of these houses under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, the chief aim being to prevent reoccupation after vacation by the present tenant; but no one has been deprived of accommodation as a result of this procedure.

A serious problem which confronts the Council is the large area of land in the near vicinity of the River where there are a number of week-end bungalows, shacks and caravans. Owing to the housing shortage, these temporary dwellings are, in many cases, occupied on a permanent basis despite the lack of proper sanitary facilities, and, in addition, a large proportion are liable to serious flooding at certain seasons of the year. It is hoped that some way will be found of dealing with this problem.

## "SECTION E"

**Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

This work was carried out as usual during the year.

**Adulteration of Foods.**

Mr. Spencer, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Worcestershire County Council, reports that 27 samples of Milk and 8 samples of other foods were taken for analysis during the year. These were found to be satisfactory except for 3 milk samples which were deficient of fat but not sufficient to warrant proceedings being taken.

## SECTION "F"

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**Diphtheria Immunisation.**

The number of children immunised for the first time during the year, either at Clinics, Schools, or by the General Practitioners, was as follows:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Pre-School Children ... ... ... ... | 110 |
| 2. | School Children ... ... ... ... ... | 13 |
| 3. | Re-inforcing doses ... ... ... ... ... | 65 |
| | | 188 |

At the end of 1947, the percentage figures of immunised children estimated in the two age groups of 0–5 and 5–15 years were 52% and 83% respectively.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

Cases of infectious disease notified during the year are shown in the following table.

| *Diseases* | *Total Cases Notified* | *Cases admitted to Hospital* | *Total Deaths* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Erysipelas ... ... ... | 2 | – | – |
| Scarletina ... ... | 2 | – | – |
| Scarlet Fever ... ... | 3 | 3 | – |
| Typhoid ... ... | 3 | 3 | – |
| Cerebro-spinal ... | 2 | 2 | – |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ... | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Tuberculosis ... ... | 1 | – | – |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 2 | 1 | – |
| Acute Primary Pneumonia ... ... | 4 | – | – |
| Measles ... ... ... | 248 | 1 | – |
| Whooping Cough ... | 89 | – | – |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... | 6 | – | – |
| Meningitis ... ... | 3 | 3 | – |

**Poliomyelitis.** During the widespread epidemic of this disease, we were fortunate in having only 2 cases in this district. Unfortunately one of these, occurring in an adult, proved to be of the rapidly fatal type.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

| Age Periods | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Pulmonary* | | *Non-Pulmonary* | | *Pulmonary* | | *Non-Pulmonary* | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| 5 | – | – | 1 | – | – | – | 1 | – |
| 15 | 1 | – | – | – | – | 2 | – | – |
| 25 | 2 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| 35 | 4 | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | – |
| 45 | 1 | – | – | – | 1 | – | – | – |
| 55 | 1 | – | – | – | 1 | – | – | – |
| 65 and over | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | – |
| TOTALS | 9 | 1 | 1 | – | 2 | 4 | 1 | – |

I wish to thank the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the Health Committee, and all Members of the Council, for their help during my first year as Medical Officer.

I wish to thank all Members of the Council's Staff for their co-operation at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1947.

THE COUNCIL HOUSE,
STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN.

*To the Chairman and Members of the*
*Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report of certain work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1947.

### Inspections and Notices.

During the year 780 visits of inspection and re-inspection were paid to houses and other premises under the various Acts, Byelaws and Regulations, in connection with housing, abatement of nuisances, infectious diseases, etc. It was not found necessary to resort to legal proceedings, but great difficulty was again experienced in getting work done owing to the very great shortage of labour and materials.

### Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Details of the various notifiable diseases are given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. As in previous years inspections, the supply of disinfectant has been continued and no special matter arose in connection with this matter.

### Refuse Scavenging.

This work has been again carried out by the Council's workmen and the details of the work are as follows:

| *Dry Refuse* | | *Liquid Refuse* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dust Bins emptied | 103,467 | Cesspools emptied | 125 |
| Loads removed | 844 | Middens emptied | 25 |
| | | Pails emptied | 16,314 |
| | | Loads removed | 723 |

The refuse has continued to be disposed of by tipping.

### Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses in the district,

### Offensive Trades.

No offensive trades were established during the year.

## Salvage of Waste Materials.

The following are the details of the materials collected and disposed of during the year:—

| | *Tons* | *Cwts.* |
|---|---|---|
| Waste Paper... ... ... ... | 33 | 13 |
| Metal ... ... ... ... | 9 | 19 |
| Rags and Sacking ... ... ... | 5 | 6 |
| Bottles ... ... ... ... | 11 | 18 |
| Bones ... ... ... ... | | 10 |
| Rope and String ... ... ... | | 3 |

The value of the above was £325 9s. 5d.

## Closet Conversions.

In order to take further advantage of the Sewerage Scheme and the drainage of premises to the new sewers at Areley Kings and Wilden, the Council entered into a contract to convert approximately 100 pail closets and middens in these areas to the water carriage system. The work was commenced in October and 4 such conversions had been completed at the close of the year. This work is still proceeding.

## Water Supply.

The consumption of water for all purposes as recorded by the meters at Mount Pleasant during the year was 185,453,000 gallons. This was an increase of 2,582,000 gallons as compared with the previous year.

A further 82 houses and other premises were connected to the mains. The supply continued to be of excellent quality and no shortage was experienced, neither was it necessary to impose any restrictions as to its use.

## Housing.

During the year 3 houses were erected by private enterprise and 70 houses by the Council. The latter being permanent prefabricated and traditional types on the Wilden and Walshes Farm Sites.

Considerable work has been carried out in connection with the inspection of houses with the object of dealing with those considered to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable cost. Detailed reports were presented in respect of 51 such houses and action to secure their demolition under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, was continued during 1948 by the Council.

## Canal Boats.

During the year visits were paid to the canal and basin, when 15 boats were examined. It was frequently found that a number of the same boats were regularly in use and these were therefore only re-inspected at intervals. All the boats were found to be satisfactory as regards repair, cleanliness, ventilation, etc. The occupants were generally healthy and no case of infectious disease was notified among their number. No applications for registrations were received during the year.

## Rodent Control.

Six cases of rat infestations were dealt with. These were only of a minor nature and were successfully overcome by baiting. Attention was given to the Council's refuse tip and the main sewage pumping station.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. H. POOLE,

*Sanitary Inspector.*

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